

WINTER 2004

# Be Woods Wise Bulletin



*Maine's small forest  
ownerships – often called  
family forests – make up  
over 6,000,000 acres - nearly  
a third of Maine's forest.*



Funding provided by the  
USDA Forest Service's  
Forest Stewardship Program

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION  
**MAINE FOREST SERVICE**  
FOREST POLICY AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
We help you make informed decisions about  
Maine forests



## WELCOME TO THE BE WOODS WISE BULLETIN

*This is the first issue of a quarterly newsletter published by the Maine Forest Service (MFS) to connect Maine landowners with information about their forests, and with the resources – people, new publications, events, websites, etc. – they may need to make informed choices about their woodlands.*

*You received this newsletter because you have participated in MFS programs or training, received cost-sharing through USDA Forest Service programs administered by MFS, or otherwise have a role in forest land management and stewardship in Maine.*

*Your woodland can mean many things to you and your family – wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, income from timber, or just a peaceful place for relaxation. **Stewardship** means protecting and improving those things that mean the most to you – by enhancing woodland aesthetics, maintaining forest health, protecting soil and water resources, growing and harvesting wood or other forest products. Stewardship means meeting your needs as landowner, while sustaining natural resources for the future.*

*Helping Maine landowners make informed decisions about their woodlands is one of our primary missions at MFS. To do that, we offer education, technical assistance, and incentives to landowners, loggers, foresters, businesses, and other organizations. Maine Forest Service is people – especially District Foresters and specialists in forest health, forest products, education, and other areas – that can help answer your questions and find the resources you need.*

*This newsletter gives a brief update on some of our current programs and upcoming events. **Be Woods Wise** and other MFS efforts are supported by grants through the USDA Forest Service's **Forest Stewardship Program**, the USDA Forest Service's Forest Land Enhancement Program, and other sources.*

### THE BE WOODS WISE KIT AND WEBSITE

Maine Forest Service has available a popular "Be Woods Wise Kit" for landowners. The kit consists of 5 booklets and a half-hour video introduction to woodland management, hosted by Lou McNally. The booklets provide additional information on options and choices for woodland owners, MFS assistance, and working with private consulting foresters, loggers, and other professionals.

The Be Woods Wise kit may be obtained by calling **1-800-367-0223 (in state only) or 207-287-2791**. The kit is **free** to all Maine landowners who own 10 or more acres of woodland.

The Be Woods Wise website, [www.bewoodswise.org](http://www.bewoodswise.org), includes a wealth of information, contacts, and links to other sites for landowners and others interested in Maine's forests. You can also request Be Woods Wise kits online.

### WOODSWISE COST-SHARE PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY

Maine Forest Service, with funding from the USDA Forest Service, offers financial incentives or "cost-sharing" to woodland owners to begin forest management planning with the help of a Licensed Forester, and to implement some recommendations of the plan. A **Forest Management Plan** is a written document prepared by a Licensed Forester to help you identify and document your ownership objectives, provide a written description of the forest and related resources, and recommend future activities to help you achieve your goals.

**WoodsWISE** can provide partial reimbursement to eligible landowners for the cost of hiring a private forester to prepare a Forest Management Plan. Applicants must be pre-approved. Some incentives may be available for additional **projects**, such as pruning, non-commercial thinning, wildlife habitat enhancement, and other activities.

Both Forest Management Plans and Projects must be conducted with the help of a private forester who is eligible to act as a WoodsWISE **Stewardship Forester**.

### Signing up for WoodsWISE:

Interested landowners must apply and be pre-approved for cost-sharing, before the work to prepare the plan or project begins to be eligible. The program then reimburses landowners for completed work. Landowners can apply for cost-share for Forest Management Plans at any time.

Landowners with an eligible Plan can apply for project cost-sharing during the next open **Project Application Period in January 2005**. Applications are due by January 30<sup>th</sup> in the MFS District Forester Office. Approximately \$200,000 will be available for projects.

**Application forms**, eligibility & project requirements, and additional information are available at <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/fpm/wwi/wwi.htm/>. For additional assistance, contact the Maine Forest Service's Augusta office, your MFS District Forester, or your consulting forester.



Maine Forest Service  
Be Woods Wise  
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Augusta, ME 04333-0022  
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SOURCES

*With nearly 90% of the  
state's land area covered  
by forest, Maine is the  
most heavily forested  
state in the U.S.*

UP AND COMING

FEATURED  
PARTNERS

**BE WOODS WISE**  
informs, involves, assists, and provides  
incentives for Maine landowners managing  
their woodlands through application of  
forest stewardship principles.

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[www.bewoodswise.org](http://www.bewoodswise.org)  
  
[www.maineforestservice.org](http://www.maineforestservice.org)

**1-800-367-0223 (in state)**  
**(207) 287 2791**

*If you have received multiple copies of this  
newsletter, or would prefer not to receive  
future mailings, please let us know.*

FINDING A FORESTER

One of the most frequently asked questions from landowners is, “How do I find a forester to help me manage my woodland?”

Your Maine Forest Service **District Forester** is a great place to start. Ten MFS District Foresters located in field offices throughout the state provide information and technical assistance - and help landowners locate other foresters in their area. MFS services are **free**.

Private, independent **consulting foresters** also provide professional services such as forest management planning, timber harvest administration, layout, and supervision, and other services. All foresters in Maine must be licensed. The Be Woods Wise publication, “Working with Professionals” outlines several important considerations in selecting a forester (as well as working with loggers).

To find the MFS District Forester nearest you, call our Augusta office or go to <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/fpm/ff/foresters.htm>.

EVENTS

Maine Forest Service, SWOAM, and other organizations host frequent events of interest to woodland owners, foresters, loggers, and others. Several **Landowner Workshop Series** will begin in February/March. Call MFS or visit our calendar for upcoming offerings: <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/fpm/calendar/calendar.shtml>.  
*If you know of an event for the calendar, please contact MFS.*

SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF MAINE

The Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM) is a nonprofit organization of people interested in the forests of Maine, particularly the land owned by families and individuals. For over 29 years, SWOAM has worked to promote long-term forest management and to strengthen long-term woodland stewardship. At a time of great change in woodland ownership and wood markets, SWOAM remains a good source of information and help for small woodland owners.

SWOAM has nine local chapters throughout the state which conduct numerous programs and workshops; SWOAM members benefit from meeting other landowners from their area and learning from and sharing their experiences. At fairs and conferences SWOAM sponsors informational sessions of interest to owners and non-owners. Members receive an outstanding 16-page monthly newsletter providing them with useful information on managing their woodlot, events and workshops, and legislation. SWOAM's forester can answer your questions and make you aware of the resources that are available to you. SWOAM members receive special discounts through a discount buying program. SWOAM also offers small woodland owners a chance to have their woodlots certified as well managed.

To join SWOAM, please mail in the tear-out sheet below. For more information, call SWOAM's office at (207) 626-0005, email [info@swoam.com](mailto:info@swoam.com), or [www.swoam.com](http://www.swoam.com).

**SWOAM Membership**

P. O. Box 836  
Augusta, Maine 04332-0836  
[info@swoam.com](mailto:info@swoam.com)      [www.swoam.com](http://www.swoam.com)

( ) Student	\$ 10.00	( ) Sponsor	\$ 100.00
( ) Individual	\$ 30.00	( ) Sustainer	\$ 250.00
( ) Family	\$ 35.00	( ) Lifetime	\$1000.00
( ) Contributor	\$ 50.00	<i>Dues are deductible for income tax purposes</i>	

name

address

street/town/state/zip

telephone

e-mail

I own \_\_\_\_\_ acres in \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_(date)

( ) I do not own land